



# MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

Address 550 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Phone 410-706-2085  
Email [mlds.center@maryland.gov](mailto:mlds.center@maryland.gov)  
Website [www.MLDSCenter.org](http://www.MLDSCenter.org)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MLDS Governing Board  
**FROM:** Ross Goldstein  
**DATE:** September 7, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** External Researcher and Grant Funded Projects

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### Purpose

The Center received two applications under the *Policies and Procedures for External Researchers and Grant Funded Projects*.

- Project 1 - Dr. Angela Henneberger is seeking support for a grant application to the Spencer Foundation on the following topic: *Poverty and Long-term College and Career Outcomes: Exploring Individual and School Level Protective Effects*. (For Board consideration and approval).
- Project 2 - Dr. David Blazar and Dr. Angela Henneberger sought support for an application to the Institute of Education Sciences for a Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research Grant on the following topic: *Quantity, Quality, and Diversity in Teaching: Collaborations to Examine the Educator Pipeline in Maryland*. (For Informational Purposes)

### Project 1

#### Project Title

*Poverty and Long-term College and Career Outcomes: Exploring Individual and School Level Protective Effects*.

#### Researcher

Dr. Angela Henneberger is the applicant for this external researcher and grant funded project. Dr. Henneberger is the Center's Principal Investigator and Director of the Research Branch as well as a Research Assistant Professor at University of Maryland, School of Social Work.

#### Project Summary

Prior work using MLDS data found that after controlling for student race and school racial composition, individual student poverty was related to worse outcomes, and that school concentrated poverty was related to worse outcomes above and beyond the role of individual student level poverty. There are two critical next steps to further the work already conducted by the MLDS Center:

1. First, use of eligibility for free and reduced price meals (FARMS) to measure poverty is becoming increasingly problematic. This study will compare the use of FARMS to measure school concentrated poverty with the use of data from the Census Bureau at the school-level.
2. Second, the examination of risk and protective factors for students living in poverty is critical for the implementation of targeted services to ensure the most benefit for students and schools.

This study will address both of these critical questions to inform policy and practice in Maryland.

#### Grant Funding

Dr. Henneberger's application is to the Spencer Foundation Small Research Grant Program. The requested funding amount is \$50,000.

#### Review Process

The project was favorably reviewed by Center staff and was also presented to the Research and Policy Advisory Board at its September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The RPB also favorably reviewed the project proposal and recommended it's referral to the Governing Board for final approval.

#### Recommendation

I recommend that the Governing Board approve this External Researcher and Grant Funded Project application. The research is cross-sector and is responsive to the Governing Board's Research Agenda (see [Research Agenda Question 2](#)). Dr. Henneberger has the requisite expertise and experience to conduct the planned research. Finally, the proposed research addresses an important topic that may provide actionable information for state policy makers.

#### Action

I request the Governing Board's review and approval of Dr. Henneberger's application for External Researcher and Grant Funded Project.

### **Project 2**

#### Project Title

*Quantity, Quality, and Diversity in Teaching: Collaborations to Examine the Educator Pipeline in Maryland.*

#### Researchers

Dr. David Blazar is a member of the Research Branch and an Assistant Professor of Education Policy and Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park.

#### Project Summary

This project aims to increase quantity, quality, and diversity in the teacher workforce in Maryland by extending existing relationships between university-based researchers, and state and local practitioners and policymakers; and by leveraging two unique mechanisms – a rich statewide longitudinal data system and a research apprenticeship model – to provide timely feedback on the success of innovative policies and programs.

#### Grant Funding

Drs. Blazar and Henneberger submitted an application to the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) for a Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research grant. The requested funding amount is \$400,000.

#### Review Process

The project was favorably reviewed by Center staff and was also presented to the Research and Policy Advisory Board at its September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The RPB also favorably reviewed the project proposal and recommended that the Executive Director seek final approval from the Governing Board.

Recommendation

The research is cross-sector and is responsive to the Governing Board's Research Agenda (see [Research Agenda Questions](#) 2, 12, and 16). Drs. Blazar and Henneberger have the requisite expertise and experience to conduct the planned research. Finally, the proposed research addresses an important topic that may provide actionable information for state policy makers.

Action

The grant submission date was August 23, 2018. To meet the deadline, staff sought and received approval from Dr. Fielder, Chair of the Governing Board, to support this grant.